



US Army Area III Support Activity

Safety Bulletin



ATTENTION

Staying Safe in Cold Weather

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning The Silent Killer!

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a poisonous, invisible, odorless, tasteless gas that kills people every year. It is produced whenever fuels e.g., gasoline, diesel, kerosene, wood are burned. (Families are often poisoned when they use charcoal barbecue grills indoors).

Soldiers can be exposed to CO when fuel burning equipment/vehicles are used in poorly ventilated situations. Vehicles, tent stoves, M-2 burners, generators, kerosene heaters, etc., can all produce fatal levels of CO.

CO poisoning can be prevented by: adequate ventilation, venting vehicle/ equipment exhaust outside, and good vehicle/equipment PMCS. Look for exhaust system/manifold leaks on vehicles, generators, and heaters. Ensure tent stove exhaust pipes are unobstructed. Always keep a tent flap/window partially open when fuel heaters are in use.

Never sleep in vehicles with the engines running. If the vehicle is running to keep the heater on keep a window down an inch.

All soldiers must know the symptoms of CO poisoning: nausea, dizziness, headache, and unconsciousness in severe cases.

If CO poisoning is suspected: move to fresh air immediately, perform CPR if victim is unconscious, call medic, ventilate area before returning, inspect fuel burning source.